

CHILD FATALITY REVIEW REPORT COCHISE, GRAHAM, GREENLEE, AND SANTA CRUZ COUNTIES

CHARACTERISTICS OF CHILDREN WHO DIED IN 2005

This report provides information on the deaths of children who were residents of either Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, or Santa Cruz Counties at the time of their deaths. During 2005, there was a combined total of 41 fatalities among children birth through 17 years of age in the counties of Cochise (27 deaths), Graham (six deaths), Greenlee (one death), and Santa Cruz (seven deaths). Infants in the post-neonatal period (28-365 days old) comprised 44 percent of childhood deaths in these four counties in 2005. Figure 1 shows the number of boys and girls who died in each age group.

**Figure 1. Age Group and Gender for all Deaths
Birth through 17 Years, Cochise, Graham, Greenlee & Santa Cruz
Counties, 2005**

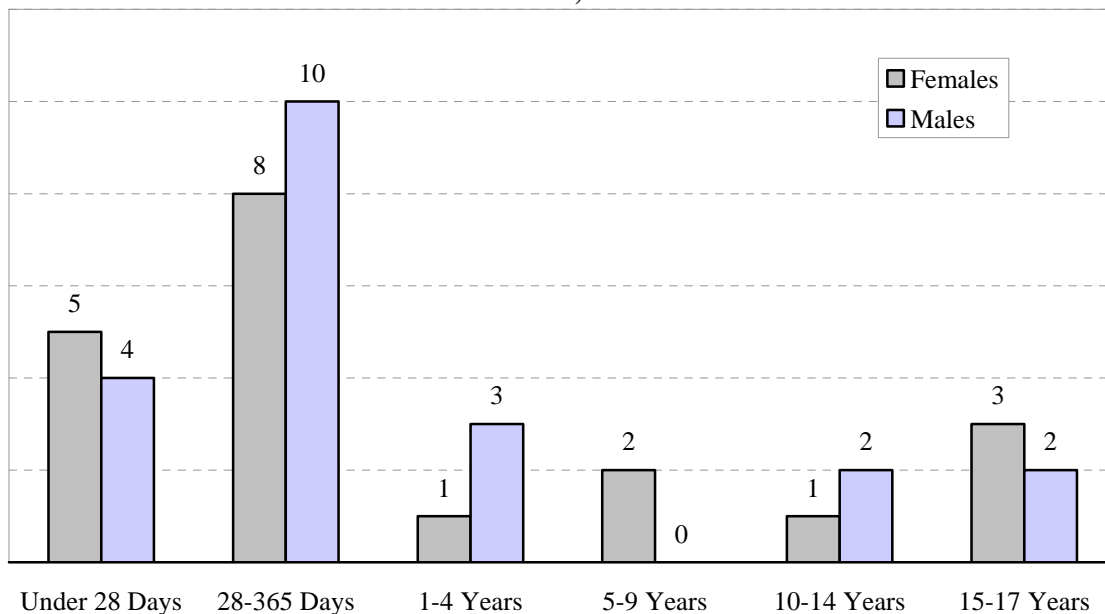
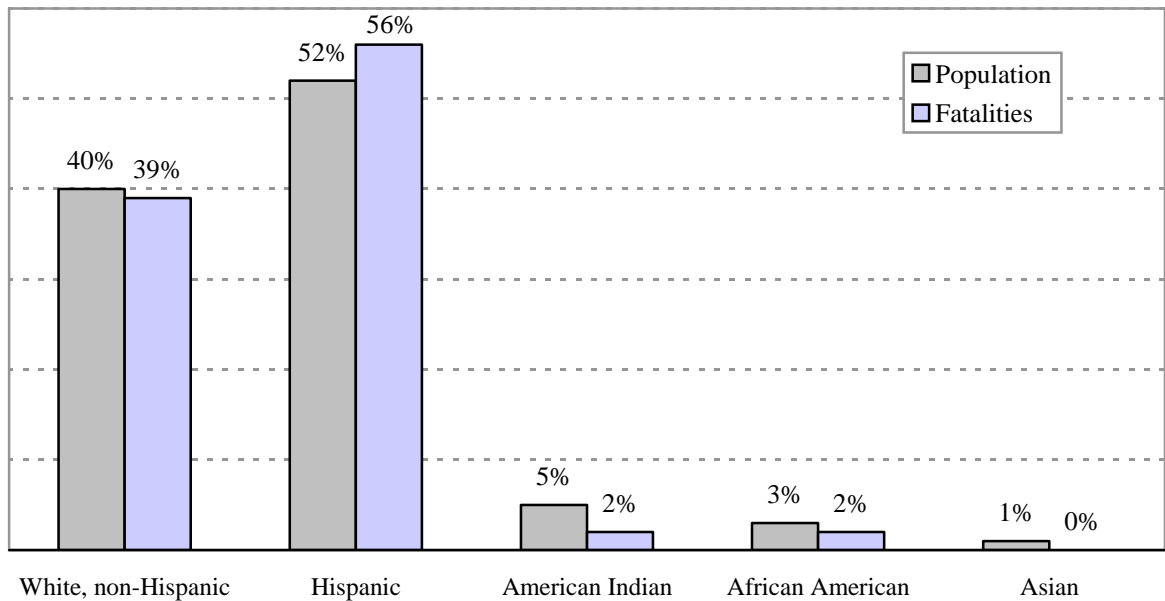


Figure 2 shows the racial and ethnic composition of the children who resided in Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz Counties compared to fatalities of children who resided in those counties during 2005. Hispanic children were over-represented among fatalities accounting for 56 percent of the childhood fatalities (n=23), yet comprising only 52 percent of the population.

Figure 2. Race/Ethnicity of Population Birth through 17 Years Compared to Fatalities, Cochise, Graham, Greenlee & Santa Cruz Counties, 2005



CAUSE AND MANNER OF CHILD FATALITIES

Cause of death refers to the injury or disease resulting in the death (e.g. motor vehicle crash, pneumonia). Manner of death explains how the death came about. Manners of death are categorized as natural, accident, homicide, suicide, or undetermined. In addition to reviewing medical examiner reports, Child Fatality Review Teams review records from hospitals, emergency departments, law enforcement agencies, Child Protective Services, and other sources. As a result of this comprehensive, multidisciplinary approach, the team's determination of cause and manner sometimes differs from those recorded on the death certificate.

Natural deaths (e.g. medical conditions, congenital anomalies, prematurity) accounted for 71 percent (n=29) of all fatalities of children who resided in Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz Counties. The most common natural cause of death was prematurity, which resulted in 15 deaths during 2005. Overall, 20 percent of childhood deaths were due to an accident and 63 percent of accidental deaths were due to motor vehicle crashes. During 2005 there were no homicides of children in Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz Counties. Table 1 shows a cross-tabulation of the cause and manner of death for children who resided in Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz Counties in 2005.

Table 1. Cause And Manner of Death, Birth through 17 Years, Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz Counties, 2005						
<u>Cause</u>	<u>Accident</u>	<u>Homicide</u>	<u>Natural</u>	<u>Suicide</u>	<u>Undetermined</u>	<u>Total</u>
Prematurity			15			15
Medical*			12			12
MVC	5			1		6
SIDS			2			2
Suffocation	1					1
Hanging	1					1
Drowning	1					1
Gunshot Wound				1		1
Unknown					1	1
Exposure					1	1
Total	8	0	29	2	2	41
Percent of Manner	20%	0%	71%	5%	5%	
*Excluding SIDS and prematurity						

PREVENTABILITY

During reviews, teams examine the circumstances surrounding the death and identify factors that may have contributed to the death. Part of this review includes a 34-item checklist of contributing factors. After reviewing the contributing factors, the team determines whether the death was preventable.

Child Fatality Review Teams consider a child's death preventable if an individual or the community could reasonably have done something that would have changed the circumstances that led to the child's death. Local Child Fatality Review Teams determined that 12 (29 percent) of the deaths of children who resided in Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz Counties were preventable in 2005.

Existence of a contributing factor did not necessarily result in the determination that a death was preventable. Thirty-two percent of all deaths (n=13) had at least one contributing factor noted. Table 2 shows the top contributing factors for the deaths of resident children of Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz Counties in 2005, and the number of deaths that had the contributing factor noted.

Table 2. Top Contributing Factors to Child Fatalities, Birth through 17 Years, Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz Counties, 2005	
<u>Factor</u>	<u>Total</u>
Lack of Vehicle Restraint	4
Driver Inexperience	4
Unsafe Bedding	3
Lack of Supervision	3

COCHISE, GRAHAM, GREENLEE, AND SANTA CRUZ COUNTY CHILD FATALITIES COMPARED TO OTHER ARIZONA COUNTIES

This section will compare the deaths of children who resided in Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz Counties to the deaths of children who resided in the remaining 11 Arizona counties. In 2005, 41 children who were residents of Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, or Santa Cruz Counties died, and 1,032 children died who were residents of the other 11 counties. Child Fatality Review Teams found that Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz Counties had a smaller percentage of preventable deaths than the remaining counties. Overall, 29 percent of Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz County deaths were preventable (n=12), compared to 33 percent of deaths in the remaining counties (n=339).

Table 3 compares the top causes of death for Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz Counties to the rest of Arizona. The three leading causes of death for Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz Counties as well as the remaining Arizona counties were prematurity, other medical causes, and motor vehicle crashes. There was, however, a higher percentage of childhood deaths due to prematurity in Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz Counties (37 percent), than in the remaining counties (25 percent).

Table 3. Leading Causes of Death, Birth through 17 Years, Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz Counties Compared to Other Arizona Counties, 2005			
<u>Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz Counties (n=41)</u>		<u>Arizona, excluding Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz Counties (n=1,032)</u>	
<u>Cause</u>	<u>Percent of Total</u>	<u>Cause</u>	<u>Percent of Total</u>
Prematurity	37%	Medical*	38%
Medical*	29%	Prematurity	25%
MVC	15%	MVC	10%
*Excluding SIDS and prematurity			

Table 4 compares the manner of childhood deaths for residents of Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz Counties to the rest of Arizona. The leading manner of death was natural, accounting for well over half of childhood deaths in Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz Counties and for all other Arizona counties, followed by accidental deaths. This comparison reveals that a larger percentage of childhood deaths were due to natural causes for Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz Counties (71 percent) than for the remainder of Arizona (68 percent). No children who were residents of Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz Counties died as the result of homicide, compared to five percent of the deaths in the remaining counties.

Table 4. Manner of Death, Birth through 17 Years, Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz Counties Compared to Other Arizona Counties, 2005			
<u>Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz Counties (n=41)</u>		<u>Arizona, excluding Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz Counties (n=1,032)</u>	
<u>Manner</u>	<u>Percent of Total</u>	<u>Manner</u>	<u>Percent of Total</u>
Natural	71%	Natural	68%
Accident	20%	Accident	20%
Suicide	5%	Homicide	5%
Undetermined	5%	Undetermined	3%
Homicide	0%	Suicide	3%

Figure 3 compares the age distribution of childhood deaths of residents of Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz Counties with the other Arizona counties. Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz Counties had a higher proportion of deaths of children under 1 year old.

Figure 3. Percent of Fatalities by Age Group, Birth through 17 Years, Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, & Santa Cruz Counties Compared to Other Arizona Counties, 2005

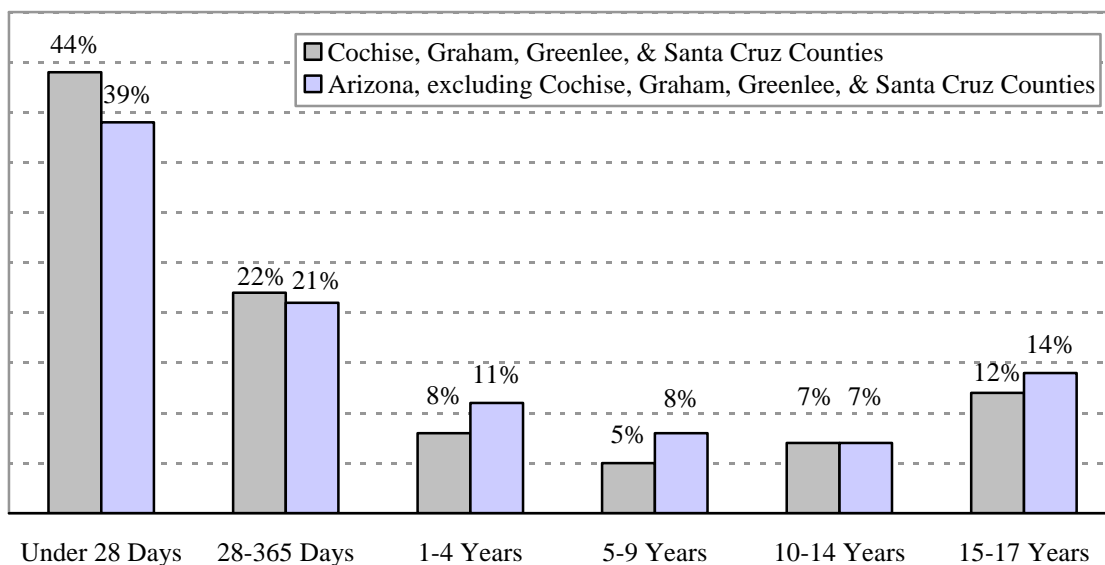


Figure 4 shows a comparison of childhood deaths by gender for residents of Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz Counties with residents of the other counties in Arizona. Genders were more equally represented among child fatalities in Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz Counties (51 percent males and 49 percent females) than in the remaining Arizona counties (59 percent males and 41 percent females).

Figure 4. Percent of Fatalities by Gender, Birth through 17 Years, Cochise, Graham, Greenlee & Santa Cruz Counties Compared to Other Arizona Counties, 2005

